

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Claims 1-9, 18-22, and 26-30 and are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-9, and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication Number US 2005/0071840 ("Neiger").

Claims 31-36 have been added.

Support for the new claims is found on page 8 of the specification, and claims 1-9 as originally filed. No new mater has been added.

It is submitted that Neiger does not render claims 1-9, 18-22, and 26-30 unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Neiger includes a disclosure of a method for handling privileged events in a virtual machine environment that includes detecting an occurrence of a privileged event, determining which one of multiple virtual machine monitors (VMMs) is to handle the privileged event, and transitioning control to this VMM (see Neiger Abstract).

It is submitted that Neiger does not teach or suggest executing a plurality of input output (IO) instructions from an instruction stream during a single virtualization event.

On the contrary, Neiger discloses executing a single privileged event during each single virtualization event. Control transfers from a VM to a specific VMM when a privileged event occurs during the operation of a VM. Once the specific VMM is identified, the information pertaining to the virtualization event is delivered to this VMM and control is transitioned to it. Figure 2 illustrates privileged event 1 occurring during the operation of VM 202 causing a transition from VM 202 to VMM 210, privileged event 2 occurring during the operation of VM 202 causing a transition from VM 202 to VMM 212, privileged event 3 occurring during the operation of VM 206 causing a transition from VM

206 to VMM 212, and privileged event 4 occurring during the operation of VM 206 causing a transition from VM 206 to VMM 214. A corresponding VMM then handles the virtualization event and may transfer control back to VM from which the control was received. The transfer of control from a VM to a VMM is referred to herein as a VM exit (see Neiger paragraph [0027] and Figure 2).

In contrast, claim 1 states

A method for performing virtualization, comprising:  
executing a plurality of input output (IO) instructions from  
an instruction stream during a single virtualization event.

(Claim 1) (Emphasis added).

Claims 18 and 30 include similar limitations. Given that claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 19-22, and 26-29 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18, it is likewise submitted that claims 2-9, 19-22, and 26-29 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Neiger.

Furthermore, claim 31 states

A method for performing virtualization, comprising:  
executing a plurality of input output (IO) instructions from  
an instruction stream during a single virtual machine (VM) exit.

(Claim 31) (Emphasis added).

Given that claims 32-36 depend directly or indirectly from claim 31, it is likewise submitted that claims 32-36 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Neiger.

Applicants further submit that Neiger does not teach or suggest identifying an IO instruction, and scanning an instruction stream to determine whether additional IO instructions are present within an extent of instructions in the instruction stream.

On the contrary, Neiger discloses use of multiple virtual machine monitors to handle privileged events. Neiger does not include any disclosure of scanning an instruction stream to determine whether additional IO instructions are present within an extent of instructions in the instruction stream.

In contrast, claim 2 states

The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
identifying an IO instruction; and  
scanning the instruction stream to determine whether  
additional IO instructions are present within an extent of  
instructions in the instruction stream.

(Claim 2) (Emphasis added).

Claim 19 includes similar limitations. Given that claims 3-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 2, and claims 20-22, and 26-29 depend directly or indirectly from claim 19, it is likewise submitted that claims 3-9, 20-22, and 26-29 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Neiger.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9, 18-22, and 26-36 should be found to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (217-377-2500) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

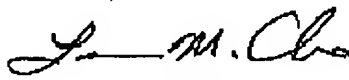
If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1624.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date August 21, 2006

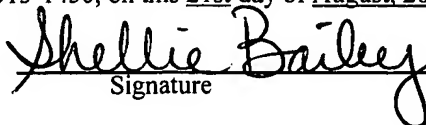
By



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Shellie Bailey

  
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